

CONVENTION CENTER

A Brownfields Intervention Results in the New Shreveport Convention Center

ADDRESS:	400 Caddo Street, Shreveport, LA 71101
PROPERTY SIZE:	15 acres
FORMER USES:	Confederate arsenal and military complex; system of wharves, docks and warehouses; sawmill; foundries; warehouses; railroad; former power plant
CURRENT USE:	Shreveport Convention Center
EPA GRANT RECIPIENT:	PROJECT PARTNERS:
The City of Shreveport utilized \$400,000 in EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund funding.	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Shreveport Department of Community Development, Downtown Development Authority, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Shreveport Public Assembly and Recreation (SPAR), Red River Waterway Commission



PROJECT BACKGROUND:

During the Civil War, the property served as the grounds for the Confederate States Army and later became part of a system of wharves, docks and warehouses during the height of the steamboat era. Subsequently, the property became an integral part of the region's railroad system and a portion was utilized by Shreveport Gas and Electric Company for nearly 60 years. For the last 25 years, the property has been virtually abandoned. To spur economic redevelopment and community revitalization, the City of Shreveport identified the property in 1999 as a potential location for the proposed Shreveport Convention Center. In 2001, the City of Shreveport completed environmental investigations of the property under an EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. These investigations identified arsenic, benzo(a)pyrene, and other contaminants at concentrations that exceeded both federal and LDEQ standards.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Leveraged \$102 million in public and private funding for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment activities.
- Removed 38,005 cubic yards of soil contaminated with petroleum products and arsenic, 45,260 gallons of fuel oil and water, and two underground storage tanks (USTs); sealed two USTs; disposed of three oil/gas wells; and excavated two 100,000-cubic-foot natural gas storage basins.
- Leveraged an estimated 1,100 in cleanup, construction, and redevelopment jobs.
- One of the first projects to enter the LDEQ Voluntary Remediation Program.



The completed Shreveport Convention Center.

OUTCOME:

The City of Shreveport used \$400,000 from an EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund to clean up a portion of the 15-acre property, and then leveraged an additional \$102 million from public- and private-sector sources for cleanup and redevelopment, transforming the former brownfield into a state-of-the-art convention center. The 350,000 square-foot facility—the second largest convention center in Louisiana and the largest in the tri-state area—features modern, high-tech meeting and exhibit space. The Shreveport Convention Center opened its doors in January 2006, serving as an anchor and catalyst for area redevelopment; a 317-room Hilton Hotel will open in the near future and connect directly to the facility. *ConventionSouth*, the South's leading meetings industry magazine, presented the Shreveport Convention Center with its annual Readers' Choice Award in December 2006.